

The Great Eater in the Green Kingdom



Beginning Science



Beginning Science Story



The Great Eater in the Green Kingdom

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DOLPHIN BOOKS BEIJING

First Edition 1987

Hard Cover: ISBN 0-8351-1990-4

Paperback: ISBN 0-8351-1591-7


Copyright 1987 by Dolphin Books

Published by Dolphin Books

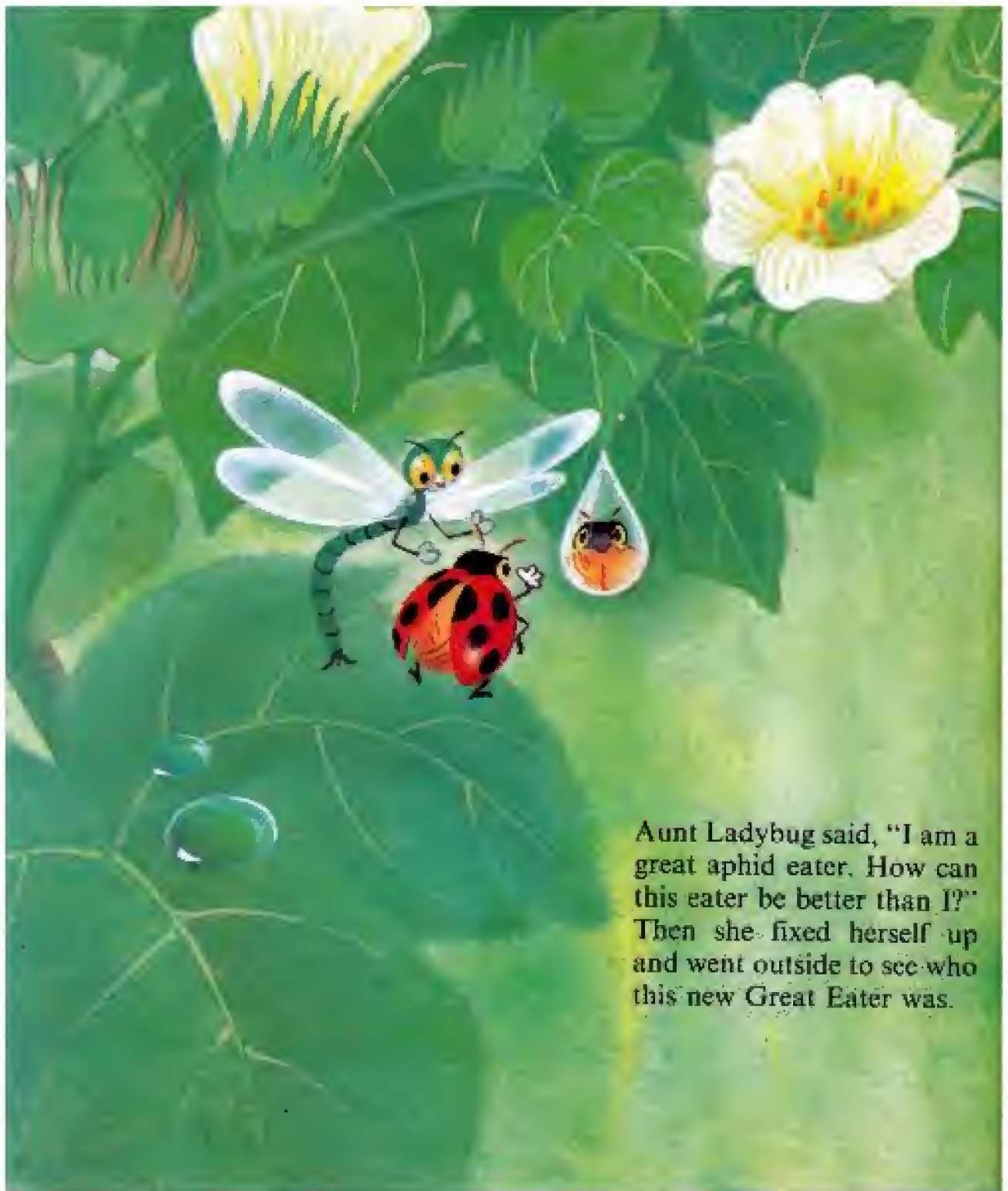
24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing, China

Distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation
(Guoji Shudian), P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

Printed in the People's Republic of China

A vibrant illustration of a cornfield. In the foreground, a large green corn leaf dominates the left side. A small, striped caterpillar is crawling on it. Below it, a ladybug with red spots is perched on a leaf. To the right, another ladybug is visible. In the background, a corn cob with a red tassel is shown. A small bee, wearing a camera, is flying in the yellow sky. The scene is set against a bright yellow background.

Little Bee is a reporter in the Green Kingdom. One day he said to Aunt Ladybug, "A Great Eater has come to our kingdom. He is good at catching and eating harmful insects."

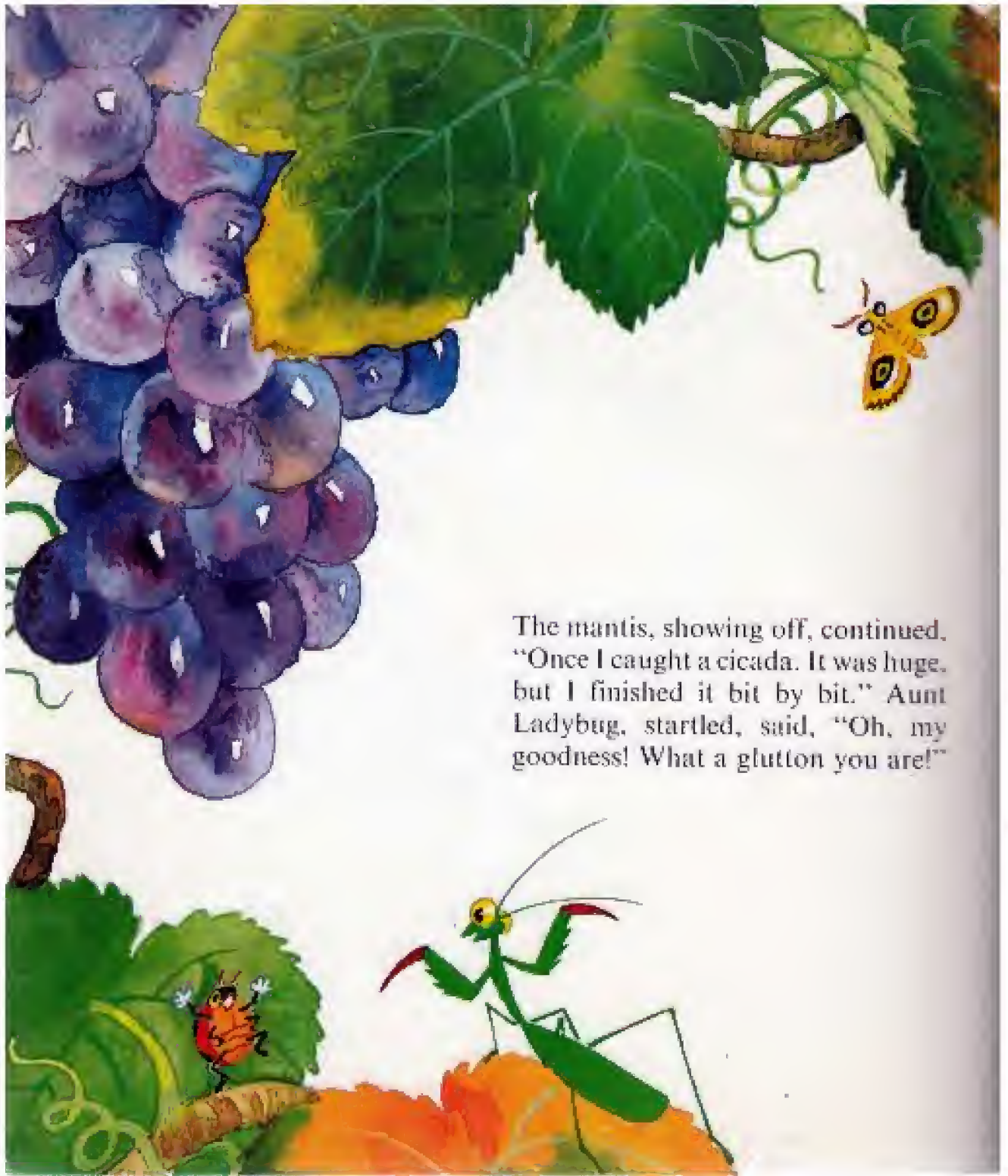


Aunt Ladybug said, "I am a great aphid eater. How can this eater be better than I?" Then she fixed herself up and went outside to see who this new Great Eater was.



Ah, it was a mantis! He was brandishing his two swords to show their sharpness. The mantis said to Aunt Ladybug, "I have a good appetite and like to eat any kind of insect. I am very gluttonous and my stomach is seldom full."





The mantis, showing off, continued, "Once I caught a cicada. It was huge, but I finished it bit by bit." Aunt Ladybug, startled, said, "Oh, my goodness! What a glutton you are!"

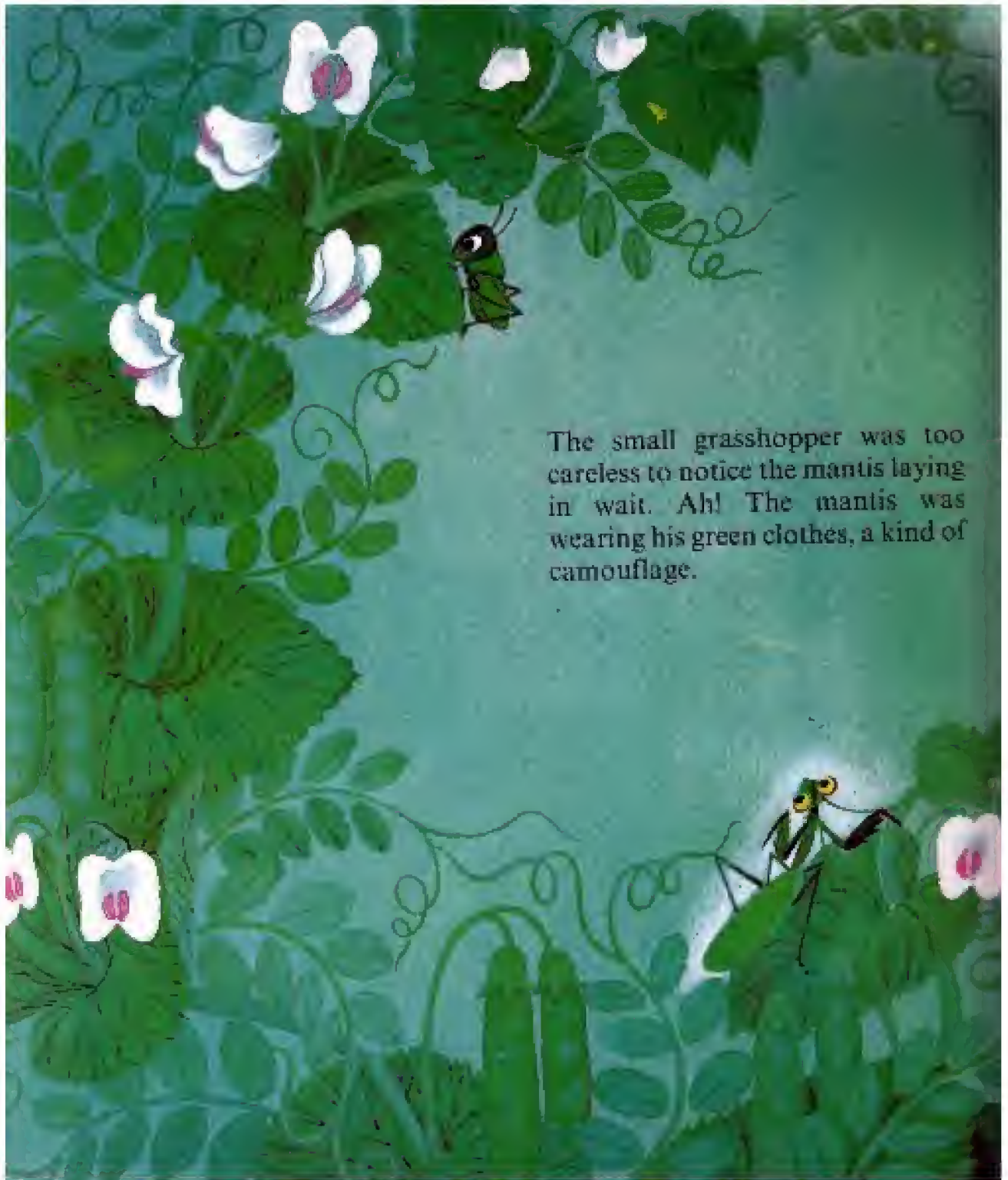
"Here is a little moth," she said to the mantis.
"Can you catch and eat it?" "Of course," replied
the mantis. He quickly turned his small triangular
head around and thrust his two swords at the
moth. The moth was caught.





A small green grasshopper was jumping to and fro in the grass, enjoying itself very much. Aunt Ladybug told the mantis, "This small grasshopper is a scoundrel. Can you catch and eat it?" "Watch me!" said the mantis.





The small grasshopper was too careless to notice the mantis laying in wait. Ah! The mantis was wearing his green clothes, a kind of camouflage.

Hiding in the green grass, the mantis gazed at the grasshopper and walked towards it so lightly that not a leaf so much as trembled. The grasshopper was completely unaware.





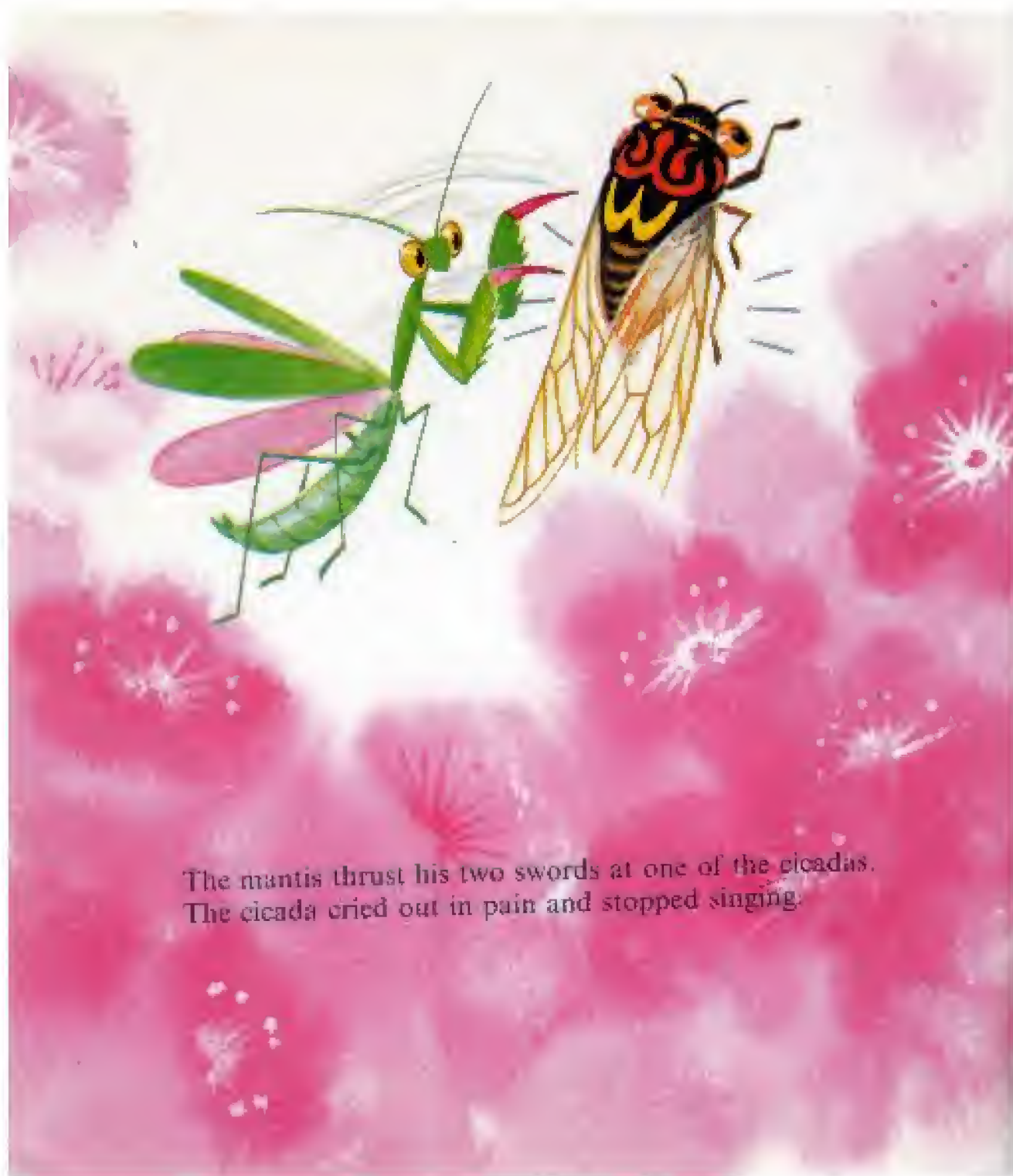
All of a sudden the mantis stood erect, raised his forelegs and, in the twinkling of an eye caught the grasshopper.

Aunt Ladybug praised him, saying, "My dear brother, how skilled you are!" The mantis said, "It's nothing. Do you want to see how I catch a cicada?"





Just then two cicadas were singing happily in a fruit tree. The mantis quietly climbed up the tree.



The mantis thrust his two swords at one of the cicadas.
The cicada cried out in pain and stopped singing.

The cicada struggled but could not hold its own. It was finally captured, and the Great Eater at once began to enjoy his sumptuous feast!



Aunt Ladybug was surprised and said, "That cicada is much bigger than you. How can you possibly eat it up?" The mantis said, "Don't worry, I'll deal with it bit by bit."






The mantis ate with great relish. It was not long before he had eaten up most of the cicada.



Aunt Ladybug watched him eating. She discovered that while he ate, he defecated. She exclaimed in admiration, "What a Great Eater you are! You've got a wonderful digestion!"

A sunflower with a brown center and yellow petals is shown. A ladybug is on a green leaf. A mantis is also on a green leaf.

The mantis said happily, "Aunt Ladybug, you can eat more than a hundred aphids a day. You are an excellent eater too. Let's be friends!"



Little Bee flew over, raised his camera and took a picture of the two Great Eaters in the Green Kingdom.

